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REPORT

A PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATION REPORTING ON TERRORIST GROUPS AND THEIR ACTIVITIES, ESPIONAGE, INTERNATIONAL SUBVERSION, AND STRATEGIC PREDICTIONS OF FUTURE EVENTS.

One country that Castro and DGI (Intelligence) agents has infiltrated with great success is Panama. And speaking of Panama, there is a story that must be told concerning how the Carter administration helped spread terrorism in Central America.

The Carter administration in 1979 tipped off top Panamanian officials that federal undercover agents were setting a trap for them in a clandestine operation to smuggle illegal weapons to leftists in El Salvador. The private warning, intended to save the Panamanian government from embarrassment, was not made known to the federal agents, placing them in great jeopardy as they continued to meet with the would-be Panamanian smugglers.

Details of the smuggling operation and United States efforts to apprehend the Panamanians involved in it are contained in confidential files of the Miami Police Department and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. They have been confirmed by some of the individuals involved.

According to investigation records, the smuggling operation began in the fall of 1979 when an Englishman identified as Sir Eric W. Jackson, owner of Kreditor International in Pompano Beach, Fla., passed the word he wanted to buy \$10 million worth of guns and ammunition.

Jackson approached a Miami gun dealer whom he thought he could trust. Unknown to Jackson, the dealer was a police informant. In fact, he had tipped authorities six months earlier about another illegal arms shipment by Panamanians to the leftist Sandinistas in Nicaragua. That tip resulted in the indictment of a Panamanian intelligence officer, a Miami gun dealer and three other men.

To solidify Jackson's trust, the informant purchased a shipment of stolen "C" rations from Jackson. Jackson then arranged meetings between himself, the informant and Capt. Roberto Perez Paredos of the Panamanian National Guard. Paredos told the informant he represented the then-president of Panama, Gen. Omar Torrijos, and Col. Manuel Noriega, head of Panamanian military intelligence. The Panamanian consul in Miami and other Panamanian officials also were aware of the shipment, Jackson said.

The Panamanians proposed to buy the guns from the informant-gun dealer and ship them to Panama with fake clearance papers. If approved by the State Department for shipment to a friendly country, the shipment would have been legal. But Paredos and Jackson let slip that the guns would go to "El Salvador but not to the government of El Salvador."

The informant reported the smuggling proposal to an ATF special agent, Don Kimbler, and to Detective Sergio Pinon of the Miami Police Department's Intelligence and Anti-Terrorist Squad. The U.S. Customs Service also was informed.

During a series of meetings with Jackson and Paredos, Pinon was introduced as a "crooked cop" who could clear the way for the arms shipment by chartered plane

through Miami International Airport. Pinon, with the help of the FBI, secretly tape-recorded a number of the meetings.

Jackson and Paredos listed the arms they wanted. The list included 1 million rounds of pistol and rifle ammunition, 3,000 M-16 rifles, 3,000 M-14 rifles, 7,000 M-1 rifles, 150 automatic pistols with silencers, 1,000 .357 Magnum revolvers, 700 9mm pistols, an undisclosed number of jeep-mounted machine guns and a "large number" of gas grenades.

Miami police estimated the value of the arms at \$10 million.

The federal officials and police decided the only way they could arrest the smugglers was in a "sting" operation. They had planned to deliver a small amount of firearms to Jackson and Paredos, to obtain payment and to expose them when they attempted to smuggle the weapons into El Salvador.

Then, at a meeting of the police officers and federal agents on Oct. 12, 1979, at the ATF headquarters in Miami, ATF special agent Kimbler said he had gone to Washington and discussed the sting with his superiors.

"They don't want the deal to go through," Kimbler is reported as saying.

Kimbler said the United States was concerned about the operation because the government of Panama has recently done the Carter administration a favor by taking the Shah of Iran off its hands and admitting him to Panama. In addition, the controversial Panama Canal Treaty had been signed, ceding the canal to Panama.

Pinon refuses to comment about any of the meetings, but a source who was present told a Washington Times reporter that Pinon was furious.

Pinon, who fled Cuba with his parents when he was 10 years old, is vehemently anti-communist. He is reported as saying:

"I'm a state agent and not reporting to the President. We are going to get these SOB's for dealing with the left wing."

But at the very next meeting between the officers and the would-be smugglers, on Jan. 15, 1980, the sting fell apart. A group that included the informant, Pinon and two undercover Customs Service agents met Paredos at the Columbus Hotel in Miami.

One person who was at the meeting said that Paredos informed the group the deal was off. "Paredos gave Pinon a mean look," the source reported, "and invited him to come to Panama."

Pinon declined. He felt, according to the source, that if he had gone he would not have returned alive. Pinon's own report of the meeting, filed with the Miami Police Department, states:

"It is the opinion of this investigator that Capt. Perez Paredos was tipped off, by someone unknown, of the actual operation."

The "someone unknown" was either Kimbler's ATF superiors in Washington or someone higher, perhaps in the State Department or the White House, police officers in Miami believe.

In any event, the operation was scratched. No one was arrested. The previous indictments against Panamanians for shipping arms to Nicaragua were dismissed.

Omar Torrijos was killed in a helicopter crash in 1981.

The informant's cover was blown. Miami police believe Jackson and Paredos were told of his activities. He is leading a quiet life, and no longer informs for the U.S. government.

Pinon and a fellow Miami police officer, Danny Benitez, went to Washington to testify about arms smuggling before the Senate subcommittee on security and terrorism.

Pinon tried to interest the subcommittee in the aborted sting operation. He says he left all his papers and documents with the subcommittee.

Subcommittee chief counsel Joel Lisker said he recalls the testimony of Pinon and Benitez, which dealt only with the local gun smuggling. Lisker says he has no recollection of Pinon having left the documents.

Pinon has resigned from the Miami Police Department and has taken a job with American Express in Miami.

His police officer friends say Pinon still would like a subcommittee investigation into how arms are obtained by leftists in Nicaragua and El Salvador and what part has been played by Panama.

A Miami policeman quotes Pinon as having said:

"My life was on the line. I probably wouldn't have come back if I had gone to Panama. And we didn't even know what the hell was happening."



An extremist Palestinian group headed by Abu Nidal may be planning a series of terrorist attacks this summer aimed at Italian, French and American targets. The group claimed responsibility for the April 10, 1983 killing of Issam Sartawi, a PLO moderate who was shot to death in Portugal while attending a congress of the Socialist International. A senior PLO leader has warned that Abu Nidal's group is preparing guerrilla operations and terrorist attacks against the West. The PLO has blamed Nidal for the assassination of its representatives in London and Paris in the late 1970s and placed a death sentence on his head. In response, Abu Nidal has issued a call for the death of Arafat. One possible target for Nidal's terrorists could be England and the taking of British hostages in an effort to gain the release of three of their men who are serving long prison terms in England for the shooting in London last June of Shlomo Argov, the Israeli ambassador to England. Abu Nidal and several of his top aides have reportedly boasted that their men would not be imprisoned in England for long. Nidal's organization is separate from the group known as Moslem Holy War which has claimed responsibility for the bombing of the United States Embassy in Beirut. Both groups are made up of fanatics who will strike at targets in industrialized democracies and attack symbols of Western power. Our projection of terrorist activity based on current information is that there will soon be a sharp rise in terrorist operations, particularly in Europe. Look for an increase in casualties and casualty-producing incidents through the use of bombings. Some terrorist groups now feel that mass casualty operations are necessary to generate the amount of publicity they need. We also expect a dramatic increase in assassinations of representatives of affluent countries. U.S. government officials and business executives will continue to be prime targets. The development and implementation of more effective international counter-measures to deal with terrorism will continue to be impeded by differing perspectives among nations, and by a reluctance on the part of many states to commit themselves to a course of action that might invite retribution by terrorist groups or by states which are sympathetic to the terrorists' cause.



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Several training centers operated by the Palestine Liberation Organization located in South Yemen are being enlarged. Two of the camps are at Dhale and Naqub (north of Aden). Other camps are located on the Gulf of Aden at Shugra and at Sheikh Othman. Several guerrilla warfare experts from the Soviet Union and Cuba have recently arrived in South Yemen to conduct courses in the PLO camps. Our sources report that the courses will last five months and consist of training in the use of explosives, infantry weapons and tactics, ambushes and intelligence gathering.

France and Libya have opened talks concerning Libya's desire to purchase military hardware. Colonel Qaddafi is reportedly interested in obtaining 20 Mirage 2000 jets and an undisclosed number of Super Etendard planes which are capable of carrying Exocet missiles.

According to agents of the Brazilian SNI (National Intelligence Service) there is an active investigation by that agency to verify reports that there were Soviet military advisors in the 48 man group who were on board the Libyan planes grounded in Brazil recently.

Senior Carlos Alberto Montaner, who is a respected Cuban journalist in exile, has reported that an important conference took place a short time ago in Havana, Cuba. Attending the meeting were three high ranking officials of the government of Panama and the two men on Fidel Castro's staff who are responsible for subversion, terrorism and guerrilla warfare in Central America. Manuel Pineiro and Osmani Cienfuegos told the Panamanians that Cuba would not take any action against Panama as long as the canal government ignored Cuban military and intelligence operations in the isthmus.

The Soviet Union now has the following military units engaged in all out combat in Afghanistan:

1. Independent Motorized Rifle Regiment stationed in Ghanzni.
2. 66th Motorized Rifle Brigade stationed in Jalalbad.
3. 201st Motorized Rifle Division stationed in Kunduz.
4. 5th Guards Motorized Rifle Division stationed in Shindand.
5. Guards Parachute Regiment stationed in Bagram.
6. Independent Motorized Rifle Regiment stationed in Faizbad.
7. 103rd Guards Airborne Division stationed in Kabul.
8. 108th Motorized Rifle Division stationed in Bagram.
9. 70th Motorized Rifle Brigade stationed in Kandahar.